

Current FACts

FAC News to Use

August 7, 2015

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FAC Spotlight: New State Office Building "Topped Out" with Last Beam Celebration

Check out awesome video on YouTube

Why is there a Tree on the Last Beam???

The practice of "topping out" a new building can be traced to the ancient Scandinavian religious rite of placing a tree atop a new building to appease the tree-dwelling spirits displaced in its construction. Long an important component of timber frame building, it migrated initially to England and Northern Europe, thence to the Americas.

A tree or leafy branch is placed on the topmost wood or iron beam, often with flags and streamers tied to it. A toast is usually drunk and sometimes workers are treated to a meal.

The practice remains common in the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Iceland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and the United States, where the last beam of a skyscraper is painted white and signed by all the workers involved.

—Taken from Wikipedia

On Wednesday, Gov. Steve Beshear joined state and local officials to celebrate the "topping out" of the state's new 371,160-square-foot office building that is being constructed through a public-private-partnership.



L-R: Mayor Bill May, Sec. Flanery, Rep. Derrick Graham, Education Commissioner Terry Holliday, Governor Beshear, Dep. Sec. Steve Rucker

The Governor marked the construction milestone by signing the final beam of the five-story building, located on Sower Boulevard, before crews raised it to be bolted into place.

"This building represents another example of our improving economy," Gov. Beshear said. "We have been leasing space for more than 1,000 state employees from Buffalo Trace Distillery. As the bourbon industry is growing, Buffalo Trace put



Andy Casebier, Dept. for Facilities & Support Services, explaining the tree tradition to Sec. Flanery

us on notice that it will need those buildings. Additionally, we have needed a resolution to replace the aging and dilapidated Capital Plaza Tower for several years. This new state office building will provide employees with the safe, healthy and modern work environment they need to perform to best of their abilities and effectively serve the people of Kentucky."

The new building will better serve the public by bringing continuity to our state agencies that have offices and employees scattered in numerous buildings around Frankfort, the Governor said.

Lawmakers supported funding for this project in the current biennial budget. The arrangement allows construction of the building by the bidder at no upfront cost to the state, which will own the building after the 30-year lease period expires.

In mid-February, the Finance and Administration Cabinet entered into a design-build-finance-operation agreement with CRM/DW Wilburn LLC., of Lexington. Site work began immediately on the nearly 34-acre state-owned property, and completion is scheduled for summer 2016.



Workers waiting to bolt the last beam in place.

Don't forget to register your team for the KECC Golf Scramble on Aug. 21!!!



2015 KECC GOLF SCRAMBLE



Morning Session - Play begins at 8:30 a.m. (Shotgun start)

Lunch served at 12:00 p.m.

Afternoon Session - Play begins at 1:00 p.m. (Shotgun start)

Sponsored by the Finance & Administration Cabinet

WHERE: Juniper Hill Golf Course, Frankfort, Kentucky

COST: \$50/player (includes prizes, greens fee, cart, and lunch)
Cash/check will be accepted upon registration at the course.

WHEN: Friday, August 21, 2015

[Click here for registration form](#)



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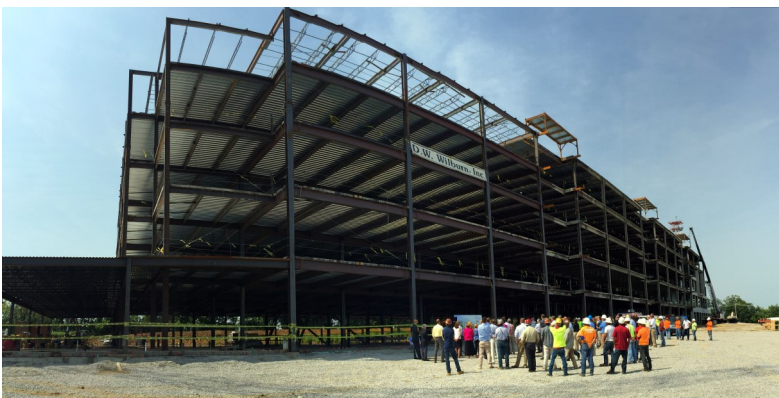
For questions contact:
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Last Beam Top Out Ceremony, Cont'd from Pg. 1

Agencies moving into the 1,400-employee building include the Kentucky Department of Education, Energy and Environment Cabinet, and the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

Other officials onsite who signed the beam included Frankfort Mayor Bill May, Rep. Derrick Graham, of Frankfort; representatives of agencies that will be housed in the facility and Finance and Administration Cabinet Secretary Lori H. Flanery.



"It is exciting to see the progress that has been made on the new state office building in such a short time," said Secretary Flanery. "This is yet another public-private-partnership that allows us to get important projects done without burdening the state budget upfront. I also want to commend our staff in the Department for Facilities and Support Services, as they have put tremendous energy effort into coordinating the aggressive timeframe of this project with CRM/DW Wilburn."

The building will include space on the first floor for a food court, which will be available to employees that work in all of the buildings on Sower Boulevard. The building is targeted to achieve a LEED designation and is designed to reduce the Commonwealth's utilities costs by approximately 20 to 25 percent of the current utility expenditures in the existing facilities.

A large number of energy efficiency and sustainability items are being designed into the five-story building, including natural day lighting, LED fixtures, high-efficient mechanical equipment, low-flow plumbing fixtures and a domestic hot water re-circulating system.

Recycled building materials and shot rock from onsite work will be used where possible, said Secretary Flanery. Outside landscaping will incorporate native grasses and plants that do not require irrigation; and wildlife habitat areas, she said.

2015 Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign

www.kecc.org

KECC Annual Kick-Off

August 11

10:30 a.m. to Noon

Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History



2015 Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign

KECC Annual Kick-Off
August 11

10:30 a.m. to Noon

[Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History](#)

100 W. Broadway | Frankfort

Join the celebration to:

- Help us kick-off the 2015 KECC Campaign!
- Learn about the campaign's positive impact on our communities!
- Talk with your co-workers about the statewide call to service!
- Hear remarks from KECC Chair Secretary Ambrose Wilson IV, Federation representatives & much more!

Everyone is invited to participate in the KECC Kickoff event on Tuesday, Aug. 11. The program is structured to repeat, so you can take either an early or late lunch.

If you think you will need more time, you will need to make arrangements with your supervisor prior to the event.